



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

14 MAR 1991

Patricia Sanderson Port
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Office of Environmental Affairs
600 Harrison St., Suite 515
San Francisco, California 94107-1396

Dear Ms. Port:

Thank you for your letter regarding our January 30, 1991, meeting concerning the Uranium Mining Sites in the Eastern Navajo Agency of the Navajo Nation. I would like to bring you up to date on the status of the EPA Physical Assessment at these sites.

As of this date, the Bluewater Uranium Mine Assessment Data Report and request for interpretation and risk assessment has been distributed to your agency as well as the five offices listed below:

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
The Indian Health Service (IHS),
The Emergency Response Division (ERD),
The Office of Air and Radiation (OAR),
The Navajo Superfund Program.

We are now awaiting comments from these agencies which we expect to receive by mid-to-late March.

Our strategy for the uranium sites on Navajo Lands is to assess the Brown Vandever and Desiderio sites first, determining risk levels and possible mitigating actions. We plan to include the BIA in any meetings we have and attempt to keep you informed of our progress and decisions. When the risks have been assessed and an action strategy is being proposed, we will coordinate with your office to ensure that a mutually acceptable action plan is reached.

After resolution of the two initial sites, we would like to meet with you again to determine a strategy for the remaining uranium sites. At that time we could also discuss more general coordination issues, particularly concerning those on Navajo Lands in New Mexico for which EPA Region VI has been responsible

for in the past. Unfortunately we will not be able to make the March 28, 1991 date suggested in your letter for this meeting. We will be in touch with you to schedule a later date.

As you have requested, we will keep you apprised of other EPA emergency response and removal actions on DOI lands in Region 9.

Your input and coordination are desired, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald C. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "W".

Donald C. White, Chief
Field Operations Branch



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